



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
AUG 4 1998

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78-04546

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AUG 24 1998

ORIGINAL

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable John E. Sununu
U.S. House of Representatives
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sununu:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Kenneth Hindersinn, regarding a fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. On May 7, 1997, the Commission, as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service. The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas and low income consumers. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms' and libraries' access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are available in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress stated that all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services must contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, require carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

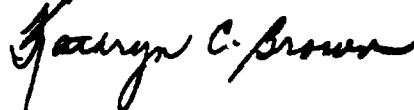
The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.



[Illegible text]

Your constituent's letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest in these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" being more prominent than the last name "Brown".

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

JOHN E. SUNUNU
1ST DISTRICT NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*cc -
acc -
4546*

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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(603) 641-0546

104 WASHINGTON STREET
DOVER, NH 03820
(603) 743-8300

PO BOX 408
WOLFEBORO, NH 03890
(603) 569-6977

June 5, 1998

Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Attn: Lou Sizemore

Dear Mr. Sizemore,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Kenneth Hindersinn, who has contacted Congressman Sununu's office expressing concern over erroneous charges which appeared on a recent phone bill. When Mr. Hindersinn contacted Bell Atlantic, they were unable to offer any explanation as to the origin of the charges. This case has become one of particular concern, as a number of constituents have contacted the Congressman's office lately expressing concerns and frustrations with Bell Atlantic, similar to those of Mr. Hindersinn. Any light you could shed on this issue would be greatly appreciated.

I have enclosed a copy of Mr. Hindersinn's correspondence, and will forward to him any information you are able to offer. Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely,

Christina Grimm

Christina Grimm
Office of Congressman John E. Sununu

PRIVACY WAIVER

Office of Congressman John E. Sununu
1750 Elm Street, Suite 101
Manchester, NH 03104
Telephone: (603) 641-9536 Fax: (603) 641-9561

Please Print Clearly

DATE: 28 MAY 98
NAME: KENNETH HINDERSINN
ADDRESS: 125 EDGERLY SCHOOL RD.
MEREDITH, N.H. 03253
TELEPHONE: HOME 603 744 8307 WORK SAME
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 039 10 9034
VA NUMBER (if applicable): C 4827041
DATE OF BIRTH: 11 June 1920

Dear Congressman Sununu:

I am currently experiencing a problem with MY TELEPHONE BILL and request your assistance. I authorize you or a member of your staff to look this matter for me.

PROBLEM: I FIND THAT MY APRIL 16 - MAY 1 BILL HAS AN ADDED CHARGE CALLED UNIV SVC FND. THE TELEPHONE CO SAID THIS WAS A CHARGE BY THE FAA FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN NOT AFFORD A TELEPHONE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT SOUNDED LIKE A NEW TAX TO ME. PLEASE CHECK

Sincerely,

RECEIVED

JUN 1 1998

MANCHESTER, NH

Kenneth Hindersinn
(Signature)

Please Attach Copies of Relevant Paperwork



Make copy

Account Number 603 744-8307 658 01
Bill Period Apr 16 - May 15, 1998
VarTec Page 1 of 2

This portion of your bill is provided as a service to VarTec Telecom, Inc. There is no connection between Bell Atlantic and VarTec Telecom, Inc.

3DG
03253

Helpful Numbers Billing inquiries call VarTec Telecom, Inc. 1-800-583-67

Customer News

The Federal Communications Commission has required VarTec Telecom, Inc. and other telecommunications companies to expand their access code from 5 to 7 digits. That means the DimeLine number 10811 you have been using to save on all long distance calls now have a "10" preceding it so that it will become 1010-811 (easily remembered as "Dime-Dime-811"). Please start using this new code today.

Summary

VarTec Telecom, Inc.

1 Toll Calls	\$17.
2 Federal Tax	
3 State Tax	
Total	\$18.

Itemized Calls

Toll Calls

Directly Dialed

no.	date	time	place called	number called	rate period	min:sec	amt
4	4/8	11:57 am	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	day	13:00	\$1.
5	4/9	11:42 am	Lewiston NY	716 754 7957	day	12:00	1.
6	4/9	3:19 pm	Washington DC	202 225 7772	day	3:00	
7	4/9	3:24 pm	Washington DC	202 225 5951	day	3:00	
8	4/10	2:04 pm	Fremntnwrk CA	510 792 4651	day	3:00	
9	4/12	12:18 pm	Sonora CA	209 586 2756	night	4:00	
10	4/14	12:33 pm	San Jose CA	408 578 5469	day	3:00	
11	4/15	11:27 am	San Jose CA	408 578 5469	day	3:00	
12	4/15	8:08 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	eve	3:00	
13	4/16	4:13 pm	Foxboro MA	508 543 2105	day	9:00	
14	4/17	12:19 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	day	3:00	
15	4/17	2:27 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	day	3:00	
16	4/20	5:48 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	eve	23:00	2.
17	4/22	5:55 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	eve	3:00	
18	4/24	11:27 am	Chicago IL	312 431 6102	day	11:00	1.
19	4/29	11:10 am	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	day	3:00	
20	4/29	5:06 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	eve	3:00	
21	4/29	7:59 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	eve	3:00	
22	4/30		Univ Svc Fnd				
23	4/30		Dimeline				5.
24	4/30		Univ Svc Fnd				
25	4/30	10:29 am	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	day	4:00	
26	5/1	7:33 pm	Ctrsandwih NH	603 284 6627	eve	3:00	

VarTec portion continues on reverse side of page